



For Immediate Release: April 16, 2024
Oakland, California

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**City of Oakland Approves Development Agreements for Black Cultural Zone's
Liberation Park Project**

Black Cultural Zone Secures Site Control from the City of Oakland for its "Liberation Park Market Hall and Cultural Hub" and "Liberation Park Residences" Project

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland has reached a significant milestone in its commitment to fostering economic opportunities and preserving Black culture by completing the Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) and Lease Disposition and Development Agreement (LDDA) phase for the Black Cultural Zone's development project "Liberation Park Market Hall and Cultural Hub" and "Liberation Park Residences". This landmark achievement secured site control and was met with full support from the Oakland City Council on March 7th, 2024, marking a crucial step forward for the project.

The 1.2-acre city property on Foothill Boulevard and 73rd Avenue, currently home to Liberation Park, a vibrant community hub established by the Black Cultural Zone Collaborative (BCZ), is at the heart of this transformative initiative. BCZ, alongside partners Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST) and Eden Housing, is leading the proposed development project to further economic opportunities and preserve the rich heritage of Black culture in East Oakland.

The acquisition and development of this property represents a significant milestone for the Rise East plan, a comprehensive 10-year strategy developed through a community-led vision to establish a Black Cultural Zone in East Oakland. Over the past decade, dedicated community leaders in East Oakland have laid the groundwork for this initiative, identifying core investable strategies and fostering deep partnerships between community-based organizations, residents, public and private sector institutions, and philanthropic entities.

The initial approval of the land deal by the Oakland City Council Community & Economic Development committee, followed by the full council's endorsement, underscores the city's commitment to addressing historic disinvestment in areas like East Oakland. District 6 Councilmember Kevin Jenkins said: "As a council member representing East Oakland and dedicated to our community's prosperity, I believe the Black Cultural Zone and Liberation Park are pivotal for our future. This vibrant hub will drive economic opportunities, preserve our cultural heritage, and empower residents while fostering growth".

Moving forward, the City of Oakland, BCZ, and their partners will collaborate closely to advance the development of the project. "This includes 119 units of affordable housing, a food hall, pop-up vendor spaces for small businesses, a performance venue for artists and events, and an outdoor skating rink for all ages to enjoy," said Director of Real Estate and Partnerships at CAST, Carolyn Choy. "We've seen the success of BCZ's Akoma Market in bringing people together and celebrating Black arts and culture, and we're excited to support BCZ's vision of creating a permanent home for these proven activities and opportunities for artists and creative entrepreneurs. With all CAST projects, it's about keeping artists and cultural workers anchored where they create, and Liberation Park offers that and more. Securing site control from the City is a meaningful step in the path to community ownership and ensuring Liberation Park remains a permanent cultural asset for East Oakland."

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About Black Cultural Zone

The [Black Cultural Zone](#), conceived in 2014, addresses the disparate impact that decades of disinvestment in East Oakland and more recent displacement of Black People and Black Businesses from their legacy communities here in Oakland by centering Black Arts and Culture within a community development framework. The East Oakland Black Cultural Zone Collaborative (the "Collaborative") was formed by the Eastside Arts Alliance and several non-profit organizations located in East Oakland to develop the East Oakland Black Cultural Zone. The Collaborative designated the East Oakland Black Cultural Zone as the 50 square blocks from High Street to the San Leandro Border and focused on implementing arts and cultural strategies and engaging artists and community members in art activism.

About Rise East

Rise East is a collective impact effort guided by a comprehensive 10-year plan. This community-led initiative aims to develop a Black Cultural Zone in East Oakland, building on more than a decade of groundwork by community leaders. The Rise East plan identifies core investable strategies to accelerate community development over the next decade through deep collaboration between community-based organizations, residents, public and private sector institutions, and philanthropic partners. Learn more at riseeast.org

About Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST)

Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST) is a community-centered real estate organization committed to ensuring artists and cultural workers can stay anchored where they create. Founded in 2013, CAST works in deep partnership with communities across the San Francisco Bay Area, particularly communities that have endured systemic oppression and historical underinvestment. CAST models new ways to secure and steward affordable, inclusive spaces for creative and cultural expression by applying real estate financing tools and structural models in innovative ways, building community knowledge and agency, and creating and holding space for visioning and arts activation. Its programs and services have helped arts organizations like CounterPulse and Luggage Store Gallery in San Francisco build pathways to ownership, enabled artists to secure long-term affordable leases, and created dedicated spaces for cultural connection and exchange. Learn more at cast-sf.org